

In the claims:

Kindly rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Vacuum coating system for coating elongate substrates, said coating system having one or several coating sections and one or several pump sections, at least one magnetron in an arrangement as a sputter-down-variant above ~~the~~ a substrate, said variant having a target surface opposite ~~the~~ an upper side of the substrate and/or ~~comprising in an~~ arrangement as a sputter-up-variant below the substrate, said sputter-up-variant having a target surface opposite ~~the~~ a lower side of the substrate, and a transport device, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transport device (9) is arranged in a divided manner on a drive plane (10) and on a transport plane (11), the drive plane (10) being arranged in such a manner that in the sputter-up-variant, ~~the~~ an underside of a magnetron body containing the magnetron (4) lies above the drive plane (10).

2. (Currently amended) Vacuum coating system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein transport elements of the transport plane (11) can be disconnected from the drive system and removed ~~if required~~ without impairing transmission of drive power to the substrate.

3. (Currently amended) Vacuum coating system according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in an arrangement as a sputter-up-variant, the magnetron (4) is connected to fastening elements that laterally extend from ~~the~~ a top of the vacuum coating system (1) alongside the substrate (5) as far as the magnetron body.

4. (Currently amended) Vacuum coating system according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein drive elements of the drive plane (10) are encased ~~in such a way that the~~ by a casing which acts as flow resistance.

5. (Currently amended) Vacuum coating system according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein mutually corresponding suction openings are arranged in ~~the~~ a coating section (3, 8) and ~~the~~ a pump section (2) above and below the transport plane (11).

6. (Currently amended) Vacuum coating system according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a vacuum pump (18) is arranged below the transport plane (11) in ~~the~~ a pump section (2).

7. (Currently amended) Vacuum coating system according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein connection for power transmission from the drive plane (10) to the transport plane (11) is arranged in ~~the~~ a coating section (3, 8) only.